

9 July 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOUSTON

SUBJECT: Travel Expenses for Appointees

1. Reference is made to your oral request for an opinion concerning the following question:

"Can CIA pay the travel expenses of a newly appointed employee to Washington from his home at the time of appointment, when Washington is his first permanent duty station?"

2. Specific authorization for payment of such travel expenses cannot be found in Public Laws 110, 253, 600 or 830. (We are assuming that this question does not apply to transfers from one Government Department to another.)

3. The general rule concerning this problem may be found in the following quotation from 22 Comp. Gen. 869, at 871:

"In numerous decisions of the accounting officers of the United States there has been reiterated the consistent rule of long standing that an appointee must bear the expenses of his travel from the place where the definite notice of his appointment reaches him to the first official headquarters of his new position — the reason for the rule being that the placing of oneself at the station where his work requires him to be is one of the burdens for qualifying for employment, and that to shift such expense to the United States would result in the payment of additional compensation not allowed by law."

A more recent statement of the rule is found in this excerpt from a Decision of the Comptroller General (B101280) dated 12 March 1951:

"The rule is well established that a newly appointed employee must at his own expense report to his first official duty station, and only to the extent of additional costs resulting from temporary duty required en route is reimbursement proper...."

4. In view of the above, your question must be answered in the negative.